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United Nations Environment Programme

**Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer**
**Fortieth meeting**
Vienna, 11–14 July 2018

# Issues that the Secretariat would like to bring to the attention of the parties

## Note by the Secretariat

1. The present note briefly summarizes issues of relevance to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the activities that have taken place or will take place from January to June 2018 that the Secretariat wishes to bring to the attention of the parties.

## I. Secretariat activities

### A. Environment Management Group

2. The Secretariat has continued to engage with the Environment Management Group (EMG) on issues relevant to the ozone treaties. EMG was established in 2001 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/242 to enhance inter-agency coordination in the field of environment and human settlements. Part of its mandate is to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by enhancing United Nations system-wide collaboration and coherent responses on environmental matters.[1] The Secretariat engages with EMG with a view to identifying issues of possible mutual concern across United Nations entities, to represent the work of the ozone treaties and to account for its contributions to achieving the sustainable development agenda.

3. In December 2017, EMG issued a report entitled "System-wide Collaboration on the Environment: Synthesis Report on UN System-wide Contributions to the Implementation of the Environmental Dimension in the Sustainable Development Goals, 2016–2017",[2] to which the Secretariat had contributed information in 2017. The key objective of the report, which was prepared through a consultative process among EMG members, is to provide a framework for collaboration, promoting synergy and coherence in the work of the United Nations system on the environmental aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals. It also seeks to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system and identify synergies to facilitate the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into its work. EMG will revisit the report periodically in order to provide an updated picture of ongoing collaboration and to identify potentially fruitful areas for cooperation across the United Nations organizations.

4. The work of EMG continued in 2018 in the form of two "nexus dialogues", inter-agency meetings on issues of mutual concern and on topics that were not of direct relevance to the ozone

[1] See http://unemg.org/.

[2] Available at http://unemg.org/images/emgdocs/UN_sws/SWFS_Synthesis_Report.pdf.

treaties.[3] At its midterm meeting held on 8 May 2018, an update was provided on the progress made since the Senior Officials Meeting held in September 2017, and preparations for the next such meeting, to be held in the margins of the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, were discussed. Discussions also focused on the possibility of two further nexus dialogues being held in 2018 or 2019 on topics that may be of relevance to the ozone treaties, namely chemicals management, and sustainable consumption and production. While the concepts of the dialogues are still being developed, the Ozone Secretariat has indicated its interest in those topics and will update the parties regularly on further relevant developments in the work of EMG.

## B. High-level political forum on sustainable development

5. Convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development is the central platform of the United Nations for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.[4] It meets annually to review in depth the progress made towards the achievement of specific Goals.

6. The theme of the 2018 meeting, to be held in New York from 9 to 18 July 2018, will be "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies". All of the Goals are to be examined from that perspective, with particular emphasis on Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17.[5]

7. In response to the invitation from the President of the Economic and Social Council, Mr. Marc D'Iorio, President of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, and Mr. Yaqoub al-Matouq, President of the Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, submitted a joint report to the high-level political forum on 11 April 2017. The report highlights the contributions made by the parties to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals that are under in-depth review in 2018 and are most relevant to the work of the two instruments.[6]

## C. Cooperation with the International Plant Protection Convention

8. The Secretariat continues its cooperation with the secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention, based on the memorandum of understanding signed between the two secretariats in 2012.[7] In recent years, cooperation has involved the submission of comments by members of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee to draft documents prepared under the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments on International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), including ISPM 15 relevant to methyl bromide, and participation of the members of the Technical Options Committee in meetings of the Technical Panel of Phytosanitary Treatments.

9. In January 2018, the secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention invited the Ozone Secretariat to prepare a written report on cooperation between the Montreal Protocol and the International Plant Protection Convention, for the consideration of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures at its thirteenth session, held in Rome from 16 to 20 April 2018. In response, and in consultation with the co-chairs of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee, the Secretariat submitted the requested report[8] in February 2018. The report was posted on the website of the Convention[9] and was considered by the Commission under the agenda item addressing international cooperation, along with reports from other international organizations.

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[3] The topics discussed were tackling e-waste, and biodiversity mainstreaming in the context of human security and well-being.

[4] See https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf.

[5] Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (Goal 6); ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (Goal 7); make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (Goal 11); ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (Goal 12); protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (Goal 15); strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (Goal 17).

[6] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=1241&menu=3170.

[7] https://www.ippc.int/static/media/uploads/mou_btwn_ozone_&_ippc_signed.pdf.

[8] https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/85581/.

[9] https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/.

### D. Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

10. Upon invitation from the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the Secretariat reviewed and provided comments to a draft report on the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach from 2006 to 2015. The evaluation, mandated through resolution IV/4 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session, held in Geneva from 28 September to 2 October 2015, aims to provide an analysis to support the intersessional process of the Conference to develop recommendations and to enable the Conference at its fifth session to take an informed decision on future arrangements for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The Secretariat intends to follow more closely the work of the Strategic Approach in the future and inform the parties of any pertinent issues.

### E. Engaging Goodwill Ambassadors to promote ratification of the Kigali Amendment

11. The Secretariat is working with the Communication Division of the United Nations Environment Programme to inform the Goodwill Ambassadors or regional ambassadors of the United Nations Environment Programme about the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment in order for them to encourage ratification of the Amendment though their social media platforms and during appropriate occasions or public appearances. The Goodwill Ambassadors of the United Nations Environment Programme[10] are prominent personalities in various fields who can help to raise awareness of the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment.

## II. Activities by the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations entities of relevance to the work of the Montreal Protocol

### A. Scientific assessment of the climate impact of the Kigali Amendment and enhanced cooling efficiency by the United Nations Environment Programme

12. The United Nations Environment Programme is conducting a global scientific assessment of efficient and climate-friendly cooling to address the climate impacts and other benefits of the implementation of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol and associated opportunities to enhance energy efficiency. The assessment is being supported by the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Programme.

13. The scientific assessment builds on previous assessment experiences. It has engaged a group of experts to produce a document based on existing scientific studies undertaken by institutions around the world, including those of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel and the Scientific Assessment Panel; studies on energy efficiency options in cooling; nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement; and other relevant studies. The report will present the specific contribution of the Kigali Amendment and enhanced cooling efficiency to global climate goals.

### B. "Cooling for All" initiative

14. Sustainable Energy for All, a non-profit organization working with leaders in government, the private sector and civil society to drive action on sustainable energy and climate change mitigation, launched an initiative called "Cooling for All" in 2017, supported by the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Programme. The objective of the initiative is to assess the challenges and opportunities of providing access to affordable, sustainable cooling solutions for all. The Kigali Amendment implementation opens up an important opportunity to improve energy efficiency while phasing down hydrofluorocarbons for the cooling sectors.

15. The Cooling for All Global Panel, consisting of leaders from business, policy and academia, as well as representatives of United Nations bodies, including the Ozone Secretariat, held its second meeting in Kigali on 21 and 22 March 2018 with the aim of reviewing the first draft of the scoping report, which addresses a broad spectrum of cooling issues. The report, which is scheduled to be published in July 2018, is intended to help create a pathway to ensure that the poorest populations and relevant countries can have sustainable access to cooling solutions.

[10] https://www.unenvironment.org/people/unenvironment-voices.

# III. Secretariat participation in relevant events from January to June 2018

16. Between January and June 2018, the Secretariat either undertook or will undertake a number of missions in furtherance of the goals of the Montreal Protocol, as summarized below.

## A. Ministerial session of the sixth Global Environment Facility Assembly

17. The Secretariat will participate in the ministerial session of the sixth Global Environment Facility Assembly, to be held in Da Nang, Viet Nam, on 27 and 28 June 2018, to be preceded by the fifty-fourth meeting of the Global Environment Facility Council from 24 to 26 June 2018.

## B. Eighty-first meeting of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol

18. The Secretariat will participate in the eighty-first meeting of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, to be held in Montreal, Canada, from 18 to 22 June 2018.

## C. Ninth meeting of the steering committee of the InforMEA Knowledge Management Initiative

19. The Secretariat will participate in the ninth meeting of the steering committee of the InforMEA Knowledge Management Initiative, to be held in Montreux, Switzerland, from 5 to 8 June 2018. The initiative, facilitated by the United Nations Environment Programme, brings together multilateral environmental agreements to develop harmonized information systems for the benefit of parties and the environmental community at large.

## D. Information sharing on implementation and compliance mechanisms under selected multilateral environmental agreements

20. The Secretariat will participate in an information-sharing session organized by the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury focused on experiences from the implementation and compliance mechanisms under selected multilateral environmental agreements, to be held in Geneva on 29 May 2018.

21. The session will explore the practices and functioning of implementation and compliance mechanisms established under a selection of multilateral environmental agreements, including the Montreal Protocol. The information-sharing session has been organized to offer an opportunity for members of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Minamata Convention to gain practical insights and discuss lessons learned from implementation and compliance arrangements of other multilateral environmental agreements.

## E. Combined meeting of the World Meteorological Organization/Global Atmosphere Watch Scientific Advisory Groups

22. The Secretariat will participate in the combined meeting of the World Meteorological Organization/Global Atmosphere Watch Scientific Advisory Group on Ozone and Scientific Advisory Group on UV Radiation to be held in Jülich, Germany, from 22 to 25 May 2018.

## F. Women Leaders Kicking It on Climate Summit

23. At the invitation of the Minister for the Environment and Climate Change of Canada, Ms. Catherine McKenna, the Secretariat will participate in the Women Leaders Kicking It on Climate Summit in Ottawa on 16 and 17 May 2018.

24. The Summit will bring together high-level female influencers from the public, private, academic and civil society sectors to advance climate action, the empowerment of women and gender equality. The Summit will include a dialogue on how climate action can be gender-responsive and how it can contribute to gender equity and the empowerment of women.

## G. Technology and Economic Assessment Panel meeting

25. The Secretariat participated in the annual meeting of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel in London from 23 to 27 April 2018. The Panel discussed its annual reports and agreed on the presentation of key issues to be included in those annual reports for the consideration of the parties to the Protocol during their annual meetings.

26. The Secretariat engaged in discussions with the Panel members either in plenary or bilaterally with the co-chairs of the various technical options committees and senior experts on both substantive and administrative issues.

## H. Artificial Intelligence for Good Global Summit

27. The Secretariat is participating in the second edition of the Artificial Intelligence for Good Global Summit, being held in Geneva from 15 to 17 May 2018 and organized by the International Telecommunication Union.

28. The Summit will identify practical applications of artificial intelligence regarding support for more efficient operation of activities carried out by offices and support for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Secretariat will identify how artificial intelligence could be used to improve the efficiency of its operations, particularly in data management.

## I. Regional workshop for customs officers

29. The Secretariat participated in a regional workshop for customs officers from Asia-Pacific countries that was jointly organized by the World Customs Organization and the Green Customs Initiative and hosted by the Government of China in Shanghai from 23 to 27 April 2018.

30. The issues discussed during the workshop included trends of illegal trade in waste and chemicals; national experiences and major obstacles to the implementation and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements; combating illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances, including measures taken by parties to the Montreal Protocol to facilitate monitoring of trade in ozone-depleting substances; illegal shipment of hazardous waste and chemicals; illegal trade in wildlife; and sharing of best practices in customs border controls by various Governments in the Asia-Pacific region.

31. The workshop drew participants from 22 countries in Asia and the Pacific and representatives from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, the World Customs Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization, the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, the secretariat of the Green Customs Initiative and some of its partners, including the Montreal Protocol, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

## J. Partnership for effective international rule-making by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

32. At the invitation of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Secretariat participated in a meeting on partnership for effective international rule-making held in Geneva on 12 and 13 April 2018. The objective of the meeting was to exchange information and discuss progress on the international partnership by about 45 organizations to support efforts for better regulatory cooperation on international rule-making. The work by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development is aimed at contributing to the review of development, implementation and enforcement of different types of international instruments that are legally binding, not legally binding or voluntary.

33. In early 2018, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development launched a common survey exercise on the rule-making activities and practices of international organizations, including some multilateral environmental agreements, in order to ultimately lead to greater clarity and common understanding of the terminology used for international instruments and relevant practices to improve rule-making in international organizations. The survey is also intended to identify the conditions for inclusive, evidence-based and coordinated international rule-making. The Secretariat will continue to make appropriate contribution to this work, at the invitation of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, based on the relevant practice by parties to the Montreal Protocol in the implementation of the Protocol. The outcome of the initiative on partnership for international rule-making will be shared with all organizations taking part in the review of international instruments.

## K. Provisional approval of Harmonized System codes for hydrofluorocarbons by the Harmonized System Committee of the World Customs Organization

34. The Secretariat participated in a meeting of the Harmonized System Committee of the World Customs Organization held in Brussels on 9 March 2018, during which the Committee provisionally

agreed on the adoption of Harmonized System codes under chapter 29 of the nomenclature for the 18 hydrofluorocarbons listed under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol. The Committee adopted the Harmonized System codes, taking into account the environmental impact of hydrofluorocarbons in terms of their global-warming-potential levels and relative importance in international trade.

## L. Network meetings of ozone officers

35. In the period between January and June 2018, representatives of the Secretariat either participated or will participate in the following network meetings of ozone officers, organized by the United Nations Environment Programme under its OzonAction Compliance Assistance Programme:

(a) Annual meeting of the Regional Ozone Network for Europe and Central Asia, to be held in Valencia, Spain, from 18 to 21 June 2018;

(b) Annual Caribbean Network Meeting of the National Ozone Officers, to be held in Kingstown from 30 May to 1 June 2018;

(c) Joint Anglophone and Francophone Network Meeting of National Ozone Officers, back-to-back with a workshop on the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Programme, to be held in Gaborone from 21 to 23 May 2018;

(d) Joint South Asia/South East Asia/West Asia Thematic Meeting, back-to-back with the Ozone2Climate Technology Roundtable, held in Beijing, China, from 8 to 10 April 2018;

(e) Interregional thematic and network meetings for National Ozone Officers, held in Paris from 15 to 19 January 2018.

36. At the above meetings, the Secretariat either presented or will present updates on recent developments under the Montreal Protocol, focusing on the Kigali Amendment, the ratification process, the status of its ratification, the benefits of ratification and other key issues related to the Amendment. The Secretariat also either addressed or will address the status of compliance with the Montreal Protocol by parties in the various regions and either consulted or will consult bilaterally with parties, offering advice on matters of interest.